

Serial No.: 10/674,213
Filed: September 29, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have submitted herewith a petition for a two-month extension of time, which extends the period for response to April 4, 2006.

Applicants hereby request further examination of the subject application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been canceled, and the rejection is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 USC § 102(a) or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(b) as unpatentable over Lehman, Wragg, Ogura, or McVicker. Claim 6 has been canceled, and the rejection is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

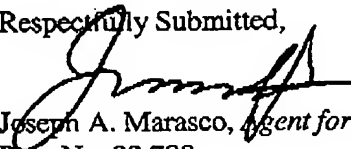
Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 USC § 102(e) or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Buck. Claim 6 has been canceled, and the rejection is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant presents new claims 7-10 based on the properties of the article taught in the specification, not on process steps as in canceled claim 6. Applicant believes that claims 7-10 define the invention and distinguish the invention over all of the cited art. Examination of the new claims is respectfully requested.

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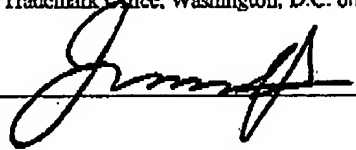
In view of all the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections are overcome, and that applicants' claims 7 - 10 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore earnestly solicit allowance of claims 7 - 10, and the issue of U.S. letters patent therefor.

Respectfully Submitted,


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